

Gendercide #5

Cherchez La Femmel



Notes:

1) The cover artwork is originally from a queer pulp book entitled Abnormals Anonymous by Stella Gray circa 1964.

2) Some of the content for this came from the Femme Conference 2008 Zine Making Workshop, including the FTG graphic.

3) If you unfold the zine, you'll find a large version of the FTG graphic as a poster.

4) This is Gendercide #5, even though Gendercide #4 isn't published yet (as of August 2008) Please don't be confused...

In August, 2008 I attended the Femme2008 conference in Chicago, IL. It was an amazing and emotionally draining conference. Most of the time I self-ID as cisgender male or genderqueer. Simultaneously I also ID as femme. Being a femme cis-male (I'm a Cissie, damn it!) I have often found myself checking my agency when in femme and queer spaces. I've got many years of queer activist

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NO longer need you be embarrassed by a thin, scrawny, unwomanly form. No longer need you be ashamed to be seen in a bathing suit or evening gown. Here at last is a safe, easy way to develop a stunning figure—to gain those fascinating, swelling curves—to firm and strengthen flabby, sagging tissues.

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Let me prove that I can give you the full, womanly development that is so smart and attractive. My wonderful method takes just a few minutes a day in the privacy of your own home. See the marvelous things it does for your figure! Take advantage of my big bargain offer now! Send only \$1.00 and I will mail you my delightful home treatment, including Instructions and special massaging Cream. Try it 10 days. Your dollar back if you are not delighted! Write today, enclosing \$1.00



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experience, but also realize that factors in my life have limited my scope in other ways. I've been queerbashed. I've been sexually harassed. I've never been raped. I've never (to my knowledge) faced discrimination based on my race or gender.



Because of this, I've wondered if I fit in and if I'm valuable in the Femme community. Often my femme friends assure me that I am, but then again they're friends.

Going to a national conference and co-facilitating a workshop for Femmes of All Genders (yeah, we're FAGs) was a trial by fire, and I'm still not sure if I came out unburned.

After the first keynote there was a zine making



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workshop being led by Hard Femme from Oakland, CA. After doing the usual introductions and background, they started the group off with Sentence Starters (kind of like that Soup Starter food product from the 1980's.)

[the starters are in bold]

I'm here because I believe that it is important... Important to challenge the notion of femme as being primarily cisgender female...challenge the notion of

femme being primarily lesbian--- to challenge the misogyny in gay male space.

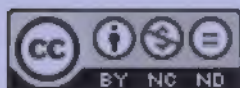
Femme is a big "fuck you" to the notions of "top" and "bottom." It's a queer cross bones to binary systems of gender and sexuality. Femme allows for a reclamation of space in hetero and homo worlds.

Hard Femme is the prosthetic cock in my mouth while my lover pins me to the futon. It's the friction of nipples rubbing against my own as we shower off [the] bike grease and sweat and flour and glitter of our day's [work and] play.



As I continue to sort out my feelings about the femme conference and my place as a cissie in this community I think that the previous paragraphs are true. Challenging and changing existing systems and antiquated notions of gender and sexuality are really important. Transgressing binaries is important. Working and playing and fucking and sweating and glitter are extremely important. For now, maybe that's the conclusion--- Work and play and sweat and glam out a bit--- and keep sucking and fucking and loving to BE the changes that are needed in the world.

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